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Memo To: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

Through: Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council, Harold P. Ford
           Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council, Graham Fuller
           NIO for East Asia

From: [   ]   NIC/AG   25X1

Subject: Reflections on Philippine Defense Minister Enrile

   1. Philippine Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile is being hailed by
the press as a courageous hero now that he has gone over to the opposition
forces. In my view he is an opportunist and no friend of the United
States.

   2. I met Enrile in 1981 as part of a National War College delegation
visiting the Philippines and got into a heated discussion with him. Almost
before introductions had ended he launched into a stern denunciation of US
policy in the Philippines. He states that US bases were only a magnet for
a Soviet attack and were absolutely of no benefit to the Philippines. I
responded with a brief outline of the financial and security benefits
brought to the Philippines brought by the bases. He then gave a tirade
about the US allowing Britain to use the bases without permission of the
Philippines against Philippine territorial interests. Incredulous, I
pressed him on the issue until he admitted that he was talking about 20
years earlier when Britain had supported Malaysia against Indonesia (since
the British were defending Malaysian territorial claims it also affected
the Philippines). Yet, the image remained very vivid in his mind and he
spoke with genuine anger and bitterness.

   3. I have kept track on his statements on the bases since that time
and believe that an accurate reading of FBIS materials will show that he
has been at the forefront of advocating pressure on the United States on
the base issue. If he should somehow become part of the new government I
anticipate that he would take a hard line on the base issue, either
demanding a much higher payment for the US presence or joining with those
who demand that the United States get out.

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